MR. SPEAKER: We now take up item No. 4. Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi.

12.15 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL REFINANCE COR-PORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : S'r, I beg to move :

> "That the Bill further to amend the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 1963, be taken into consideration."

The Agricultural Refinance Corporation was set up in July 1963 for providing medium and long term assistance to projects which cannot ordinarily be financed by established agencies such as the apex cooperative and land mortgage banks, either because the amounts involved in each individual scheme or project are very large or because the period for which credit is necessary is relatively long.

The Corporation was incorporated with an authorised capital of Rs. 25 crores of which Rs. 5 crores was issued and subscribed by the Reserve Bank of India, State Co-operative Banks, Central Land Mortgage Banks, certain scheduled commercial banks and the Life Insurance Corporation. The Corporation was also given by the Government of India an interest free loan of Rs. 5 crores at its inception with a meratorium of 15 years. The loan is repayable in 15 equal annual instalments thereafter.

The Corporation is authorised to raise funds by way of share capital from its members and loans from the Central Government and by issuing bonds and deben ures. It can also borrow money from the Reserve Bank of India to be repaid within a period of 18 months by pledging its stocks, securities etc. Total resources thus raised by the Corporation so far amount to Rs. 71.275 crores (including Rs. 19.525 crores raised from sale of bonds).

The Corporation was slow in gathering momentum. The situation has totally changed during the last three years. By

the end of June 1967, Agricultural Refinance Corporation had sanctioned only 15 schemes. The number increased to 128,233 and 371 during the next three years. By 15th October, 1970, this number has risen to 400,

There has been a consistent rise in the financial outlays on the schemes refinanced by Agricultural Refinance Corporation.

As on the 15th October, 1970, the Corpo atton had under consideration 193 schemes involving a total financial outlay of Rs 225 76 crores, of which Corporation's Commitment is likely to be Rs. 189 09 crores.

It will be observed that during the last 3 years the Agricultural Refinance Corporation had disbursed Rs. 5.67 crores. Rs. 17.84 crores and Rs. 28 60 crores. Mostly minor irrigation schemes have benefited. Land development, dairy, fisheries poultry are the other schemes assisted by Agricultural Refinance Corporation.

Agricultural Refinance Corporation is expected to disburse Rs. 200 crores during the 4th plan period.

The Corporation's need for funds has increased. They have estimated their need for funds in 1970-71 to be Rs. 50 crores and for 1971-72, Rs. 76 crores There is a limit on the budgetary allocation and to the amount of money which may be borrowed by issue of bonds by the Corporotion. Therefore, it has been considered desirable that the Reserve Bank should be allowed to lend money from the National Agricultural Credit (Long Term Operations) Fund to the Agricultural Refinance Corporation. This is based on the recommendation of the All India Rural Credit Review Committee.

In view of this, it is necessary to amend section 20 of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act 1963, and Section 46A(') of the Reserve Bank of India Act. 1934.

There is another small amendment which is necessary in the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act. In Section 2 (a) of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 'agriculture' has been defined as including animal husbandry, dairy farming, pisciculture

[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

and poultry farming. It is proposed to add an explanation to Section 2 (a) to clarify that 'pisciculture' will include development of fisheries, both inland and marine, catching of fish and all activities connected therewith or incidental thereto. In the absence of this Explanation, there are difficulties in refinancing schemes relating to marine fisheries. It is considered necessary to give retrospective effect to this amendment so as to regularise certain amounts already disbursed.

With these words, I move the Bill and hope that the amendments would be accepted by the House unaniniously. I commend them for the acceptance of the House.

MR. SPEAKFR: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 1963, be taken into consideration"

There is an amendment for circulation.

SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH (Jhunjhunu):
I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of electing opinion thereon by the 20th October, 1971," (1)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivnath Singh.

श्री शिवनाथ सिंह: ग्रद्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो एग्रीकलचरल रिफाइनेंस कारपेरेशन (अमॅडमेंट) बिल लाया गया है उस का मैं स्वागत करना हूँ लेकिन मैं समभना हूं कि केवल इतना ही कार्फ। नहीं होगा ग्रीर एक नया कम्प्रीहैसिब बिल लाया जाय।

मेरा निवेदन यह है कि पुराने ममय मे
एग्रीकलचर सैक्टर में घन की आवश्यकतायें जिन
मुद्दों के लिए तथा जितनी थी उस से सैंकोप
बहुत बढ़ गया है। एग्रीकलचरिस्ट्म की डिमांड्स
पहले के मुनाबले अधिक बढ़ गयी है। मैं मानता

हूं कि इस मौजूदा एग्रीकलवरल रिफाइनेंस कारपोरेशन (ग्रमेंडमेंट) बिल के द्वारा कारपोरे-शन का जो त्वरूप बनाया जाने वाला है उससे किसी हद तक उन की मागों की पूर्ति होगी और उनके साधन बढ़ेंगे लेकिन यह मौजूदा बिल मेरी राय में काफी नहीं होगा।

आज तक हमारा यह एग्रीकलचरल सैक्टर बहत नैगलैक्टैंड रहा है और उसकी जितनी प्राएरटी मिलनी चाहिए वह प्राएरटी नहीं मिली है। आप जानते है कि हमारे देश की 80 प्रतिगत : आबादी एग्रीकलचर पर निर्भर करती है लेकिन तो भी आज कृषि को इंडस्टी नहीं माना जा रहा है हाला कि यह देश की मबसे बड़ी इंडम्ट्री है। इमलिए मै ग्राप से निवेदन करूंगा कि जिस प्रकार का रूप इस षिल का है उस के अन्दर यह ग्राज एग्रीकलचर की पूरी आवश्तकनाओं की पूर्ति नहीं कर सकता है। इमीलिए मैने अपना अमेडमैंट इस पर पेश किया है कि इस बिठ को पबलिक भ्रोपीनियन के लिए भेज दिया जाय क्यों कि आज हमारे एमीकलचरिस्टस की आवश्यकताएं बढ गयी है। आज उन को छोटे छोटे सिंचाई साधनो जैमे पिम्पग सैटस बिजली आदि के लिए रुपये की सावश्यकता पड़ती है। नई टैकनिक कृषि में आई है। नई मशीनरी, नया खाद, नये तरीके लेती के, पानी आवश्यकता, मार्केंटिंग तथा स्टारिंग की अवश्यकता. गोडाऊन फैसिलिटी ऐडवांस अगेंस्ट एग्रीकलबर प्रोडयूस यादि इन सभी बातों का समावेश करते हए एक ऐग्जास्टिव स्कोप लेकर इस एग्रीकलचरल कारपोरेशन का स्वरूप बने इसकी आज आवश्यकता है और इसीलिए मैंने बिल को पद्मलिक श्रोपीनियम एलिसिट करने के लिए भेजने का अमेडमेंट किया है।

म्राज हम जानते हैं कि छोटे-छोटे सिंचाई साधनों के लिए, पिंम्पग सैट्स के लिए भीर बिजली के लिए रुपये की आवश्यकता पडती है। मेरा मकसद अपने इस अमेडभेट को पेश करने का यह है कि इस पर ख़ब सोच विचार करने के बाद काँट छाट करके सून्दर रूप इस कारपीरेशन का बना सकें ताकि हम श्राज के जमाने में काश्तकारों की नई ग्रीर बढ़ी हुई माग को पूरा कर सके।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, अ।प जानने है कि देश मे एग्रीक्लचरिस्टस की क्या हालत है। उन की आवाज बहुत कम है। उन की लोबी बटुन इनऐक्टिव है हाशांकि पिछले दिनों में वह कुछ ऐक्टिब हुए है। काम्तवार देश की रीढ़ है ग्रीर जाहिर है कि जब तक हम उनकी आव्यक्ताश्रो को पूरा नती करेगे तय तक एग्रीकल चर डेबल प नहीं होगी।..

म्रायक्ष महोदय गाननीय सदस्य का समय समाप्त हो रहा है।

श्री शिवनाथ सिंह प्रभी मुभे बहुत कुछ निवेदन करना था नम से कम 10 मिनट मुक्ते और दिए जाये।

मध्यक्ष महोदय इस बिल के लिए कुल एक घटा है और इवर से श्रीर उधर से अभी कई माननीय सदस्य इस पर बोलने को इच्छूक है तो फिर माननीय सदस्य को मै 10 या 15 मिनट का समय कैसे दे सकता हं। माननीय सदस्य पाँच मिनट मे अपनी नात समाप्त कर दे।

श्री शिवनाव सिंह : जैसी ग्राप की आजा। मैं पाच मिनट में समाप्त किये दे रहा हं। मै निवेदन करना चाह रहा था कि यह एगी-करुचरल क्लास जितनी भी हाईशिएस है उन्हे शाति से बर्दाश्त निये जा रहा है ओर जैसा मैंने कहा उसकी लोबी बड़ी इनऐक्टिव है। लेकिन इसके विपरीत हमने देखा कि प्रेमर कुकर्स पर गवर्नेमैंट ने टैक्स कम कर दिया,

मैंदे पर कम हुन्ना। हमने देखा कि फीरैन ट्रैंबिल पर कम हुआ लेकिन चुकि काम्तकारो की आवाज नहीं है इनिलए उमने ट्रैक्टरों पर 30-40 परसेंट इम्पोर्ट इयूटी को बर्दाश्त किया। उन्होंने लैंड मीलिंग को बर्दाश्त किया। दूसरे जां उनके साधन है उनके ऊपर भी सीलिंग को उन्होने दर्दाश्त किया। मै निवेदन करूना कि वम से कम एग्रीकलवरल डेवलपमेट के लिए तो ग्राप रपया म्बर्च की जिये। आप जानने है कि देश के अन्दर कितने बड़े बड़े मैदान पडे हुए है। आज हमारे काश्तकारों के पाम आवण्यक साधम नही है और पानी के भ्रभाव मे वह भ्रपने खेतो की मिचाई नहीं कर सकते है। 30-30 और 4(-40 मील से उन्हे पानी लाना पडना है। काइतकार की स्त्री वेचारी सुबह में लेकर शाम तक पानी इक्टठा करने के काग में ती लगी रहती है। उन की इन दिवकतो को मिटाने के लिए छोटे छोटे गेट्न लगाइये, छोटी छोटी नहरें बनाइयें, कृष् बनाइये और उनके वास्ते खाद और पिनली का इतजाम कीजिये। कारपोरेशन को इस प्रतार के कामो के लिए इ तजाम करना च।हिए। रूपल इलैनिट्फिकेशन को महलियत उन्हें सुलभ की जाय और गाव गांव मे उसका विस्तार किया जाय।

मै निवेदन वरू गा कि यहा कुछ स्कीमे ले ली जाती है लेकिस लेने के बाद वह समाप्त हो जाती है। मैं फाइनेस के उप मती जी से निवे-करू गा कि हमारे राजस्थान मे उदयपूर बाटी पंचायत समिति में मैनपुरा, बागौली और गुड़ा के लिए एग्रीकलचरल फाइनेय कारपोरेशन ने बहा के काश्तकारों को लोन देने के लिए आज तीन साल पहले एक स्कीम बनाई थी लेकिन वह अभी तक कैरी आउट नहीं हुई है। तीन साल होने को आमे लेकिन कुछ पता नही छग रहा है कि उस स्कीम का आ **स्विर हुआ। क्या** भीर वह बेचारे नाश्तकार मुंह बाये पिछले

Agrl. Ref.

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तीन साल से रूपया मिलने की आशा में आप की तरफ देख रहे है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय इस मामले में देखें और इस तरह की सहलियत उन्हें दिलवानें की कोशिश करें।

मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि हमारा जितना भी डेबर्ट डेवेलपमेंट का काम है वह इस कारपोरेशन को लेना चाहिए। जैसे जैसे डेजट कारपोरेशन के अन्दर आयेगा उस का डेवेलपमेंट होगा भ्रीर ऐग्रीकल्चर बढेगा। भ्राज राजस्थान में कितना बड़ा भू-भाग पड़ा है जो रेगिस्तान है। वहाँ पर सिचाई के साधन नही है। इस लिये आप इन कामो को लें। इस के दायरे को श्राप संकुचित न करें, विस्तृत करें। श्राप जानते हैं कि आत्र जितनाभी परसेंटेज ऐग्रीकल्चर का है, रूरल क्लाम का है, उस के हिस्से मे जितना रुपया ग्राप डेवेलपमेंट के लिये खर्च करते है उसका बहुत कम प्रपोशन स्राता है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिला मे प्रपना अमेंडमेंट मूब करते हुए मैं निवेदन करना चाहुँगा कि ग्राप एक बहुत विस्तृत बिल लायें, बड़े स्कोप वाला बिल यहा पर लाएं श्रीर ऐसे सुधार की व्यवस्था करे किस के द्वारा ऐग्रीकल्चर के लिये अधिक साधन जुटाये जा सकें।

भी सरजू पांडे (गाजीपुर) : यह बिल इस सदन मे इस मंशा से लाया गया है कि ऐपी-कल्चर रिफाइनेन्स कारपोरेशन बनाया जाये। में आम तौर सें इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं, परन्तु जैसा अभी माननीय सदस्य ने कहा, यह देश कृषि-प्रधान देश है लेकिन सब से कम रुपया इस को ही मिलता है। पहले तो मिलता ही नही था। जब से सहकारी बैंक हुए हैं तब से सै समभता हुं ऐग्रीकरूपर को तरक्की के लिये बहुत कम धन बैको से मिलता है। हमारे देश

में सिचाई के साधनों और दूसरी चीजों की ? दड़ी आवश्यकता है। मगर जितना बड़ा हमारे देश का कृषि उद्योग है उतना ही इस सरकार का उस की तरफ पैसा लगाने पर कम ध्यान है। अभी मैजी डी ग्रार गया था। वहांपर देखा कि वहाँ के लोगों ने खेती में इस तरह से धन लगाना शुरू किया है कि ऐग्रीकल्चर में ग्रीर दूसरी इंडस्ट्री में कोई अन्तर नहीं रह गया हैं। बड़ी बड़ी मशीनें कोआपरेटिव के द्वारा ला कर उन्होंने पूरे के पूरे ऐग्रीकल्चर की धारा को बदल दिया है। मगर हमारे देश में प्राने तौर तरीके ही चल रहे हैं। काश्तकारों के पास इतना घन नहीं है कि वह ट्रैक्टर खरीद मकें, खाद डाल सकें, इतना घन नहीं है कि अपने यहां लगा सकें। मगर हमारी सरकार का रवेया इस तरफ बहुत ही खराब है।

मैं चाहना था कि इस सिलसिले में मंत्री कोई ऐसा काम्प्रिहेन्सिव बिल लायें जिस से काश्तकारों को धन देने की पूरी व्यवस्था हो जाये। इस विधेयक के द्वारा आप सिर्फ इस कारपोरेशन से धन दिलवायेंगे, और इस कारपो-रेशन में बठे हए बड़े बड़े मगर मच्छ सारा धन खायेंगे। गरीब जनता के पास वह सारा घन नहीं जायेगा। आज तों हम लोग यहाँ पर एक तमाशा लड़ा करते हैं कृषि पंडित का। यहाँ पर किसानों का एक आर्गेनाइजेशन बना हुआ है जिस को फार्मर्स फौरम कहते हैं। खुदा जाने यह कैसा काश्तकारों का फोरम है जिस में देश के वह बड़े कादनकार हैं जो बड़े बड़े फार्मर्स हैं, जो 400-600 एकड जमीन रखने वाले लोग हैं। उससे वही लोग फायदा उठाते हैं मैं चाहता हूं कि इस तरह के छोटे मोटे अमें डिंग बिल लाने के बजाय हमें इस तरह की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये जिस में हमारे देश की ऐग्रीकल्चर तरकी करे। यह जाहिर बात है कि जब तक हमारे देश में ऐग्रीकल्चर तरक्की नहीं करेगी तब तक इस उद्योग में कोई भी तरक्की नहीं

होगी भीर तब तक हम।रे देश मे जनता की पर्वीजग पावर नहीं बढ़ेगी जब तक उसकी पर्चे जिंग पावर नहीं बढेंगी तब तक हमारे देश के काश्तकारों के पास अपना फाइनेन्स नहीं होगा और उन को अपने भनाज की ठोक पाइस नहीं मिलेगी। श्राज उन को धन देने की वात तो दूर रही, उन का अनाज खरीदने वाला कोई नही है। जब वह उन के घर से सस्ने दामो पर चला जाता है तब उन छोटे छोटे काइतकारी को उस को महगे भाव पर खरीदना होता हैं और बैंक उन को पैसा देने नही है। इस लिये मैं चाहता ह कि इस मे इस तरह से सुधार किया जाय भीर कानून बनाया जाय कि छोटे काइतकारों को मदद दी जा सके।

अभी हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक कहा कि इस कानन को अच्छे ढग से बनाने के लिये कमेटी बिठलाई जा सकती है या जनता की राय इस पर ली जा सकती है कि वैसे इस कान्न नो बनाया जाय ताकि हमारे देश मे काइतकारो को पैसा मिल सके। आज काश्तकार सब से ज्यादा ट्रस्ती हैं। हम उन की सब से कम पैसा देते है। मै चाहता ह कि ग्रगर इस सब मे न हो सके तो कम से कम अगले सत्र मे मत्री महोदय ऐसा सशोधन लाये ताकि काइतकारो को ज्यादा पैसे मिल सकें। अभी हमारे फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब मेरे यहा गये थे। वहा पर उन्होने बैक वालो से पूछा कि क्या यहाँ पर काम्तकार लोगो को हम पैशा देते हैं. लोगो ने क्हा कि देते है। जब कहा गया कि अच्छा नाम बताग्री किस काम्तकार को दिया है तो मालूम हुम। कि सारी भूठ बात है। एक भादमी को भी पैसा नही दिया गया । मेरे पास पंजाब से आदमी भाये । उन्होने बतलाया कि जब महाजन पस्पिग सेट बनाता है तो बैक उस को काश्तकार के नाम पर रुपमा लोन दे देता है। अगर 5,000 र की मशीन होती है तो वह उसको 10,000 र. मे सरीदवाता हैं और बाद में बह काम्तकार

से वम्ल किया जाता है। इस तरफ की विग्लग बैको मे होती है। यही नहीं जो समऋदार लोग हैं वह बैको से पैसा ले लेते हैं और काश्कारो रो दने सद पर देते हैं। यह सब इस लिये चलता है कि कासन में छेद है। ध्रव कारपोरेशन रुपया दिलायेगा । कारपोरेशन वाले काश्तकार के बदले किसी भीर की रुपया देगें। इस लिये इस तरह की लम्बी एजेंसिया बनाने की जरूरत नहीं है।

मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करते हुए यह चाहता ह कि जो बिल मत्री जी लाये उस से हगारे देश की आम जनता को और कास्तकारी को रुपया मिल सके। सिर्फ कहने से ही काम नहीं चलेगा . अभी हमारे माननीय मित्र कह रहेथे कि गरीब जनता को पैसा नहीं मिल पाता है। जो इस देश के शक्तिशाली लोग है वह आप के कानुन का लाम उठा कर सारा रुपया ले जाबे है। कानून इस तरह का सीधे सादे और साफ तरीके का होना चाहिए जिस से गरीब जनता को लाभ हो । मै इस विल का समर्थन करते हुए चाहता हं कि एक काम्प्रि-हेन्सिव विल लाया जाये ताकि हमारे देश के को ग्रासानी से धन मिल काश्तकारी सके।

भी नवल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर) ग्रघ्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस सशोधन विधेयक का समर्थन करने के लिए खडा हुआ हुं और जनमन के लिए प्रचारित करने का जो सशोधन मेरे माननीय मित्र से उपस्थित किया है उस का विरोध करता हु। विशेष इस लिये करता है कि शायद मेरे माननीय मित्र को पता नहीं है कि जब किसी विधेयक को जनमत जानने के लिये प्रचारित करने का संशोधन प्राता है तो उसु के माने उस विषेपक के लगभग विरोध के ही होते हैं। अगर किसी विषेयक का विरोध करना हो तब ही जनमत के लिये प्रचारित की बाल की जाती है। जैसा माननीय मित्र ने

[श्री नवल किशोर सिंह]

स्वीकार किया है, विधेयक में बहुत सी जरयोगी चीजें आ गई हैं। इस लिये उसको जनमत के लिये प्रचारित करने का जो सशोधन है वह मेरे खयाल से उचित नहीं है।

मैं एक बात उप-मत्री महोदया से पूछना चाहता हूं। मैं ने इस के ओरिजिनल ऐक्ट को देखा है। ग्रोरिकिनल ऐक्ट म ऐग्रीवल्चर शब्द की जो परिभाषा दी गई है उस म पिसीकल्चर नहीं आता है। उस में डेग्रगी फार्मिंग आती है, पोल्द्री फार्मिंग भ्राती है, पिमा कल्चर भी भ्राता है, सब कुछ उस में सन्निहित किया गवा है, लेकिन उस में हार्टिकहचर नही है। अगर ऐग्रीकल्चर के माने हार्टियल्चर मानते है तब मुभी कुछ नही कहना है, लेकिन ऐग्रीवन्चर का जो डिक्श्नरी मीनिंग है उस में हार्टिकत्चर है या नही, इस मे कुछ सदेन्ह हो सकता है, ऐसा मेरा खयाल है। अगर इस मे कोई शका की बात नहीं है, अगर डिक्श्नरी मीनिंग से स्पष्ट है कि हार्टिकल्चर उस मे आता है और सरकार उस को मानती है, तब हार्टिकल्चर को अलग से देने की जरूरत नही है, लेकिन अगर डिवश्नरी मीनिंग शंकास्पद हो नो ऐसी स्थिति मे ऐग्रीकल्चर की परिभाषा मे हार्टिकल्चर को स्पष्ट कर देना अधिक समीचीन होगा।

दूसरी बात में यह कहना चाहना ह कि रिजर्ब बैंक से कृषि के लियं जो ऋग् मिलता है उस के सूद की बर काफी कम होती है रिजर्व बैंक से करीब करीब 31 या 4 परसेंट। हे किन क्या कभी सरकार ने इस बात पर विचार किया है कि किसार तक प हुचते पहुचते गूद की दर क्या हो जाती हैं ? 9 परसेंट और अगर पेनल रेट जोड़ ले तो वह हो जाती है 10 परसेंट और कहा 9 या 10 परसेंट ? इस के सम्बन्ध में सरकार को हुछ सोचना च हिये कि क्यों इतना

बडा फर्क आता है। इस पर शीवरहेड एक्स्पे-न्डिचर बहुत ज्यादा है या कुछ और बातें है। मेरा खयाल है कि हमारी सरकार को इस के सम्बन्ध में एक नये तरीके से सोचने की जरूरत है। जो सूद की दर हो वह िस्सी भी हालत में 6 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा न बढ़े।

मे एक बाल और कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार की श्रीर से राब्ट्रकृत बैको के द्वारा या सहकारी बंशो के द्वारा जो कर्ज मिलता है उस की वसूली के नाम्मं, सूद की दर सारे भारत मे करीब करीब एक है आप जानते है कि दुर्भाग्यवश हमारे देश मे रीजनल इम्बैलेस बहत है। जो पूर्व के चार पाच प्रान्त है उन को आप किसी भी तरह से पजाब श्रीर महाराष्ट्र मे नहीं मिला सकते हैं। न तो वहा के किसानों की सूभ बूभ श्रीरन वहा के किसानो की भ्राधिक क्षमता की हम पंजाब, महाराष्ट्र श्रीर तमिलनाडु के किसनी से तुलना कर सकते है। ऐसी स्थिति मे जो नाम्सं पजाब महाराष्ट्र ग्रीर तमिलनाडु के है वही पूर्वीचल के प्रदेशो के हो तो इस का जो बुरा फल होगा वह स्पष्ट है। इस काफल यह होगा कि हैवी ओवरड्यून होंगे। आज आप सहकारी बैको के फिगसंको देखले, पूर्वाचल की क्या हालत है, उन प्रदेशों में कितन। घोवरड्यूस हो गाया है। इस तरह से ऋरण लेने की ग्रागेक्षमता यहा के किसानों को कम हो गई है। ऐसी हालत मे मरा खयाल है कि सरकार को सोचना चाहिये कि क्या ऐसे प्रान्तों के लिए जिन प्रान्तों में किसानो की अवस्था ज्यादा खराब है और जहा कृषि की तरक्की तेजी से नहीं हो रही है जिस के लिए सरकार जिम्मेवार है, वहा कर्ज देने के लिए सुद के और कर्जों की वसूली के लिए कोई दूसरे नार्म हो सकते या नही। मेरा सुमाव है कि कुछ भीर सरल भीर कुछ और साधारता उसके लिए नियम बनाये जाने चाहिये। जब

में यह कहता हूं कि सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है तो में यह बड़ी जिम्मेदारी के साथ कह रहा हूं। इस लिए कह रहा हूं कि यहां उस दिन हमने डा॰ के. एल. राव को कहते हुए सुना था कि उत्तर बिहार में बिजली नहीं है, इसकी मुभे आप क्यों याद दिलाते हैं? 23 साल के बाद भी प्रदाई करोड़ की आबादी जो उत्तर बिहार की है वहां अगर बिजली नहीं हैं तो इसकी जिम्मेदारी सिवाय राज्य सरकार या केन्द्रीय सरकार के और किस की हो सकती है? इसके बाद भी अगर हम ऋगा देने के और ऋण को वसूली के नामं वहीं रखे तो मेर खयाल में यह कोई वृद्धिमानी की बात नहीं होगी।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं और माननीय उप मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करता हूं कि जिन विषयों को यहां हमने उठाया है, उनका वह कृपया स्पष्टीकरसा करें।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill seeks to enable
the Agriculture Refinance Corporation to
borrow from the National Agricultural Credit
Fund of the Reserve Bank of India. 1 am
glad that the Government is aware of the
fact that the scope of this Refinance Corporation is increasing and it has a vital role
to play in the development of agriculture
and in increasing food production.

From the experience that we have had in the States, I can tell the Government that the State Refinance Corporations have to meet a larger number of requests from the districts for agricultural and non-agricultural schemes. They have to lend to land development banks for long-term loans and to co-operative credit banks for medium-term loans. Not only that, they have to finance sinking and deepening of wells, installation of pump sets and other schemes, specially in districts where there is no river water for irrigation like my own district of North Arcot. We have to depend upon lift irrigation because sinking of a well there is a costly affair. So, these corporations have to finance these schemes also from the districts.

The development of animal husbandry and poultry also comes under this Refinance Corporation. When the Minister was speaking, she said that most of the finance available from this Corporation is going for minor itrigation. Not only minor irrigation but even schemes other than minor irrigation have to be financed from this Corporation. For example, the development of coconut, grapes, cocoa, banana etc. also depends on this financial institution.

Even the schemes of soil conservation come under this. I would like to tell the Minister that sheep breeding is also taken up by most of the States and for that purpose even in my own constituency Rs. I lakh have been allotted by the Tamil Nadu State Refinance Corporation.

This Bill seeks to define again pisciculture and wants to enlarge the scope of fish. For a long time somehow we had been neglecting the development of fisheries. India has more than a thousand miles of coastline and yet we are not going in for fishing. Marine fishing will definitely help us in solving our problems. Hence, I think, Government must concentrate on expanding and expediting marine fishing, which will solve our food shortage problem and also the problem of malnutrition. Though I am not a fish-eater, I think, Government must concentrate on it.

For 1971.72, the Minister just now told us, Rs. 76 crores are going to be allotted. I think, the Government should not be stingy as far as this financial institution is concerned, so that they can help all the State refinance institutions to a larger extent because this is one of the institutions which vitally helps in increasing food production in the country. Hence, I support this Bill.

श्री झार बी. बड़े (खरगोन) अध्यक्ष मुहोदय, एग्निकलचरल रिफाइनेंस कारपोरेशन प् एमेंडमेंट बिल का मैं समर्थन करता हूं। इसके उद्देश्यों में लिखा हुआ है कि नैशनल एग्निकलचरल केडिट (लांग टर्म आप्रेशंज) JULY 31, 1971

[श्री आर. वी. बड़े]

फंड का जो पैसा है उस में से पैसाइस कारोपेशन को उधार मिलना चाहिये। 1963 में एग्निकलचरल रिफाइनेंस कारपोरेशन बिल पास हआ था। तब तीसरी लोक सभा का मैं मेम्बर था उस बिल का मुख्य उद्देश यह था कि कृषि सम्बन्धी कार्यों के लिए, उत्पादन बढाने के लिए, एप्रिकलचर के डिवेलेपमेंट के लिए यह बिल लाया जा रहा है। तब इसकी पास किया गया था भीर इसके से तीन मूख्य उद्देश्य बे। उस में उसको पैसा उघार देने की बात थी। क्रेकिन पी एल 480 का पैसाजो रिजर्व बैंक के पास पड़ा हबा है, मैं जनना चाहता हूं कि उसके बारे में शासन ने क्या किया है ? वह पैसा माइडल पड़ा हुआ है। मैं चाहता हूं कि उसका उपयोग एप्रिकलचर के लिए हो। इसके बास्ते कोई प्रस्ताब इस बिल में नही आया है।

किसानों को डिस्ट्क्ट कोओप्रोटिव बंक्स से पैसा मिलता है। डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोओप्रोटिव बैक्स को एपेक्स बैक्स से पैसा मिलता है श्रोर एपेक्स बैक्स को रिजर्व बैक से पैगा मिलता है। एपेक्स बैक्स से डिस्ट्क्ट कोओप्रेटिव बैक्स को भी पैसा मिलता है और वहां से किसानों को जो पैसा मिलता है उस पर कितना ज्यादा इंटरेस्ट किसानों को देना पहता है, इसकी तरफ भी आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

आज कोम्रोप्रेटिव बैक्स की स्थति क्या है। लांग टमं, मीडियम टमं और शार्ट टमं जो लोन दिये जाते हैं उनके रिपेमेंट में कितना डिफाल्ट किया जता है और ओवर इयुज किस प्रकार से बढ़ते है, इसका जिक बीबे पक्षात्र में किया गया है। उस मे कहा गया 8:

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"While for the country as a whole cooperative short and medium term agricultural credit nearly doubled during 1960-68, the progress towards development of a viable structure at the level of the primary credit societies and central cooperative banks has been below expectations. Two factors have contributed to this situation. The first has been slow progress in the programme of organising viable primary credit societies by amalgamation of the non-viable societies. The second has been the increase in overdues."

मध्य प्रदेश में जहां से मैं आया हूं वहां पर इन ओवर ड्यूज की वजह से हर सोसाइटी डिफंक्ट पडी हुई है। इस ओर भी आपका घ्यान जाना चाहिये। जो केडिट दिया जाता है उस का ठीक उपयोग नहीं होता है। मेरे पास यह रिपोर्ट है।

The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for 1969-70 (Civil),

Page 88-

"Ninty-eight stores were running at losses for three successive years from 1966-67. Their cumulative loss upto 1968-69 was about Rs. 2.29 crores. Fight stores went into liquidation and loan/share capital of about Rs. 1296 lakhs was outstanding from six of them. One other store in Madhya Pradesh which had secured financial assistance of Rs. 8 lakhs suffered a cumulative loss of Rs. 10.43 lakhs upto 30th June, 1969. It owes Rs 16.81 lakhs to the District Central Cooperative Bank and its functioning is reported to have "seriously affected the financial position of the bank which is the lifeline of the cooperative movement in the district."

इस प्रकर से जो लांग टर्म, मीडियम टर्म और शार्ट टर्म लोन दिये जाते हैं, उनका ठीक से उपयोग नहीं होता है। इस की तरफ भी शासन का ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

इतना ही नहीं। जो स्कीमें बनाई जाती है उनका भी पूरी तरह से इम्प्लेमेंटेशन नहीं होता है।

Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for 1969-70, p. 59. "Saving was mainly due to-

- (i) non-implementation in full of the Scheme for extension of credit facilities to small farmers (Rs. 193.09 lakhs); and
- (ii) non-receipt of requirements of grants from various grantees (Rs. 12.25 lakhs)"

आप स्कीमें बाराबर बनाते जाते हैं, कानून पास करते जाते हैं लेकिन उनका इम्प्लेमेंटेशन पूरी तरह से होता या नहीं होता है इसको आप नहीं देखते। इसके सम्बन्ध में आडिट रिपोर्ट्स है, पी ए सी की रिपोर्टस भी हैं। पंचवर्षीय योजना की जो रियोर्ट हमारे पास है उस से भी यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि जितने भी रिफाइनेंस के कार्य हाथ में लेने की बात कही जाती है, जितनी भी स्कीमें इसके बारे में बनाई जाती है, उनकी पूरी तरह से इम्प्लमेंट नहीं किया जाता है।

अध्यक्ष बहोदय, मैं यह समभता हं कि इस बिल को पास कर देने मे जो उहे इय है वह पूरा नहीं होगा। इस कारपोरेशन को ग्राप रिजर्व बैंक से पैसा दिला दें लेकिन जिस काम के लिए पैसा लिया जाता है वह काम होता है या नहीं इसको भी आपको देखना चाहिये। को प्रोप्ने टिव बैक्स कितने हिन्दुस्तान में फेल हुए हैं इसका जिक्र पंचवर्षीय योजना की रिपोर्ट में भी किया है और ससका पेज मैने आपको बता दिया है। इस में लिखा हुमा है जितनी भी मूवमेंट्स चल रही हैं, उनके वास्ते फ्रोडिट फीसिलिटीज पर्याप्त मात्रा में न मिलने के कारण भीर स्कीमों का ठींक तरह से इम्प्लेमेंटेशन न होने के कारण वे डिफंट पदी हुई हैं, बेकार पड़ी हुई हैं। मध्य प्रदेश

में तो ये स्टोर फेल हो चुके हैं। रीफानेंस कार्पोरेशन का उद्देश्य प्रच्छा है, लेकिन करकार को इम्प्लीमेंटेशन की तरफ भी ध्यान देना च।हिए। इस बिल में जो प्राविजन्ज हैं, वे ठीक हैं और मैं इस का समर्थन करता है।

श्री राम रतन शर्मा (बांदा): ग्रध्यक्ष अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। सदन में क्वीरम नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह फैसला हुआ है कि क्वोरम का सवाल आज नही उठाया जायेगा।

MADHURYYA SHRI HALDAR (Mathurapur): Before going into amendment of the Aricultural Refinance Corporation Bill, I want to make some points regarding the performance and functioning of this Corporation.

The report of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation for 1969-70 speaks well of the measures taken by it to increase refinance facililities, but the report does not provide any measure of success achieved by its schemes as its has not given us the number of agriculturists who have been benefited by these schemes, the acreage of irrigation and also the output raised by these schemes. Every one knows in this contry that out of the total cropped area, only 20% of the cropped area is irrigated and there is an Irrigation Ministry, there is the Agriculture Ministry and what is ARC's contribution in this respect is not found in the ARC's report.

Secondly, who have been benefited by these schemes? Every one knows that the small farmers did not derive any benefit from these schemes and only the big farmars who are called the Jotdars and big landowners have been benefited by the Aricultural Refinance Corporation. All money has flowed to them. They do not need it, still they receive the money just to give it to the small agriculturists or the marginal agriculturists and the agricultural labourers on a higher interest. The result has been that the latest census report. as published in newspapers, says . that the number of agricultural labourers

[Shri Madhuryya Haidar]

gone up by 10%, i.e. the small and magrinal farmers are fast. Losing their land. Thus, the ARC has been building up a new privileged class in the village sector also.

The All India Rural Debt and Investment Survey of 1961-62 said that 65% of the loans was borrowed by small and marginal farmers from the interest-hungry money lenders in villages. The small farmers and the marginal farmers are still in the clutches of money-lenders. After that survey of 1971-62, no survey report is available as no survey has been made. Had it been available, it would have been seen that condition of the small and marginal farmer has further deteriorated,

The ARC is working on regional basis. I am giving you statistics from the report. Upto June 30, 1970 the sanction of ARC was as follows:—

| Andhra Pradesh | 23.96% |
|----------------|--------|
| Punjab | 22.12% |
| Tamilnadu | 8 26% |
| Mysore | 7.230% |
| Haryna | 9,58% |
| Maharashtra | 9.10% |

—whereas Orisssa got 0.37% and Assam 1.24% and West Bengal, 0.03%. Several districts of West Bengal are flooded by DVC every year and Sundarbans, which is a major part of the 24 Parganas a southern district of West Bengal is inundated by heavy showers and there is no scheme of drainage facilities. In this respect ARC has done nothing.

Again, there certain schemes which are under consideration as on 30.h June, 1970. They are as follows:—

| Andhra Pradesh | 26 64 crores |
|----------------|--------------|
| Gujarat | 8.82 crores |
| Madhya Pradesh | 10.87 crores |
| Maharashtra | 5.99 crores |
| Mysore | 17.18 crores |
| Punjab * | 33:09 crores |
| Tamilnadu | 50,97 crores |

—whereas for Assam it is Rs. 27 lakhs, Orissa, Rs. 76 lakhs and West Bengal, Rs. 104 lakhs. There is no scheme of ARC for irrigation, fishery, dairy, but only one of Poultry for Bengal.

In the Fourth Five-year Plan document it is stated in page 141 as follows:

"It is contemplated that the Agricultural Refinance Corporation will provide refinance of the order of Rs. 200 crores."

This Government has got huge amount of money in the form of LIC, the nationalised banks other commercial banks also. Still this Government wants to amend the Bill only for Rs, 200 crores. The World Bank said that even by 1975 we will not be self-sufficient in foodgrains. So, much more money is needed for these agricultural sectors. The money must be given to the small farmers and marginal farmers and they are to be trained in agricultural affairs. The money should be easily available to them at long-term basis, and minimum rates of interest.

As you know, 80% of our agricultural population are agricultural labourers and for them also some agro-based industries and cottage industries are necessary. Such industries should be set up by ARC.

If these measures are taken then we see no objection to the amendment and taking of money from the Reserve Bank of India's Consolidatep Fund.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): The scope of this Bill is a limited one namely to enable the Agricultural Refinance Corporation to borrow from the National Agricultural Credit (Long-term Operations) Fund maintained by the Reserve Bank of India. It does not extend its arm to giving credit to the individual agriculturist. The Agricultural Refinance Corporation advances money to the various State Governments for the various schemes which are sponsored by them. So, the question of giving credit to the individual agriculturist does not arise out of this Bill.

It is true that the country is passing through a green revolution and the sempo

of activity has been raised in the agricultural field, and people have taken to new techniques. But the main handicap is lack of water. For lack of water, the Orissa State witnessed the worst famine of the country in 1965 and that occurred in my constituency. Still, we find that most of the land depends on the vagaries of the monsoon. So, medium, minor, small as well as as major irrigation projects should be given top priority and those schemes should be sponsored by the various State Governments and they should apply to the Government of India for having loans under this Act from the Agricultural Refinance Corporation. It is a very good thing that the Government of India have been extending their help to the various State in this regard. This is an additional source of raising resources to to finance these schemes. But going through the annual report of the corporation for the year 1969-70, which is the latest one available with me, I find that a very sad deal is being given to the State of Orissa Andhra Pradesh took more than Rs. 20 crores, Punjab Rs. 33 crores, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 10 crores and Orissa only Rs. 76 lakhs and West Bengal only Rs 1.4 lakhs, I do not want to pass on the buck to either the Government of India or the Orissa Government and the Government of India. But as a representative of the people, I would like to plead that there is great demand for financing such sohemes for irrigation in the State of Orissa, and the Orissa Government should sponsor those schemes and ask the Government of India for loans, and the Government of India, after examining the various aspects, should not stand on formalities and technicalities but should give a green signal for all those projects and finance them to the maximum extent possible. The Bill also gives scope for marine fishing, I would like to point that the State of Orissa has got a sea-board of nearly 220 miles. With its vast maritime glory of going to Sumatra, Bali and Java, our fishermen on the sea-coast will take to marine fishing like a duck to water. Only the facilities are to be provided to them, I am happy that marine fishing is also going to be financed by this corporation, In our territorial waters I have come across, and my hon, friend Shri K. R. Ganesh will bear me out, plenty of good seafish. The territorial waters of the Andamans also are famous for sea-fish. The most famous is the Tuna fish. Some time back, even Chinese fishing ships and fishing ships from other countries had come to our territorial waters for fishing purposes. We do not have facilities for refrigerated boats and trawlers whereby we can go ahead with marine fishing on a large scale. I hope that as a result of the inclusion of marine fishing among the activities which can be financed by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation, the facilities will be extended to the Andamands also which does not find a place in in the annual report.

I would also like to point out that giving credit facililies to the various States should be decided on the merits of the scheme. I feel that these pulls and counterpulls at the Centre actually decide the issue. So, I would request the Government to give their most thoughtful consideration to this matter, It is a very good thing and I support the Bill.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO (Karimnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. This is very progressive Bill. I will not repeat so many things which have been covered by my hon, friends. I would like to stress only one point and that is regarding advancement of loans.

The experience is that only rich people are getting the loans easily and that the poor people are not getting any benefit out of this scheme. What happens, Sir is that the persons who are rich or influential approach the banks or whosoever advances these loans, and they get these loans. are not spending this amount for the development of agriculture, they are lending and not only lending. Of course lending is good, they can serve, but that is not my experience, Sir. In my district, I have seen that whenever they obtain loans, they obtain them only for the celebration of the marriages of their daughters, or they spend these for political purposes or anything. They are not using the loans for political development of agriculture. It is a very serious matter. Then whenever, we want to recover from them, they are not in a position to pay. To the extent of 80% or 90% or even 100% everybody is indebted now-a-days. They are not properly utilising the loans. It is the duty of the

[Shri M. Satyanarayan Rao]

Government to see that whenever advances are made to the people, these should not be misused by them.

Now-a-days there are several societies in which influential people are there. Without the knowledge of the poor people who possess four or five acres of land, they take loans in their names. They are taking advances in the names of those people, and at the time of recovery of the loan, the Government finds it very difficult. There are several mistakes. The Government is not in a position to recover it. When they want to recover from the persons against whom the loan is shown, they say, they have not taken anything. Without their knowledge, this is what is happening. How we are going to curb this, I do not know. It must be rectified. After all, it is very easy to advance loans, but very difficult to recover. This particular matter should be kept in mind.

Then there is another thing, as my hon. friend has rightly said. There is no scope here for breeding sheep. It must be there. There are several shephereds who want to breed. It must also be included in this.

With these words, I support the Bill,

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members of this House for having given their unanimous support to this Bill, because I think the cause which is b hind this Bills is a cause of the agriculture, is a cause of the country. And I would beg to differ from the hon. Members when they say that there is no lobby for the agriculturists here. I think, more than three-fourths of the Members, who have been elected to this House have been or are the representatives of the agriculturists and all of us who sit here are, more or less, connected with the agricultural sector. As such, we do not need to say that we are representative of the agriculturists, we do represent them without saying. So, the Government is not only giving the topmost priority but it should give a topmost priority to agricultural sector.

I am extremely glad that the hon. Members have realised that there may be difference regarding the scope of the Bill, but there is no difference at all as far as the objectives and aims are concerned.

I would like to clarify certain points which have been raised here. There is a slight misconception also about the intention of the amendment, Sir. It is a very plain amendment, very innocent, and all that it aims at is to augment the resources at the disposal of the Agricultural Refinance Corporarion. I would like to clarify one point. It has been said here that much money goes from here only to embellish the coffers of the rich people, whether they may be called Jotedars, whether they may be Magarmachs or whatever the hon. Members may like to call them,

13 hrs.

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I would like to say that this is not a direct financing agency. This is a refinancing body, refinancing through land development banks, co-operative banks and commercial banks, the money going to the farmers. It is for the State Governments, the co-operative and other agencies to see that the money refinanced through this Corporation reaches the proper agency, the proper people, the poor people who really deserve it, people who are going to utilise it not only for their own good but for the good of the country as a whole. Therefore, this misconception has to be removed.

Then a point was made about the need for irrigation, help to other agencies; other avenues like soil conservation, sheepbreeding, cocoanut cultivation etc. were mentioned. All these are a very necesary part of the scope of this Bill. I do not want to go into details. When we refer to agriculture. we mean agriculture as a whole and all these activies coming within the sphere of agriculture should be receiving the attention of the State Governments. The State Governments are also assisted not only assisted but encourged, to make schemes which will eventually assist the cause of agriculture for which this money is going to be used.

A point was raised about the rates of interest. I realise that the ultimate rate for the farmers is between 9 and 10 per comt.

Government are examining the recommendations of the Hazari Committee on differential rates of interest. This matter is already receiving Government's attention.

assisting backward coming from a backward State myself, I know that it is the urgent need for the country that regional disparity and imbalance should be removed. We are quite alive to this. It is precisely for this reason that the ARC has been quite conscious of this and is taking steps. would like to say that we have regional offices and they hold mutual consultations with the State Governments in assisting the State Governments. Annual conferences held. They are very are also on this, especially assistance to be given to the backward areas.

Some hon, members mentioned that there is the question of discrimination. I would like to make it clear that so far as the allocation of money through this Corporation is concerned, there is no question of any discrimination.

Reference was made to Orissa. As on 30th June 1968, there was only one scheme which had come from Orissa with a total outlay of Rs. 32 lakhs. But now there are 8 schemes, (upto 15 March 1971) involving an outlay of Rs. 199.51 lakhs. Here also, it is for the State Government to take more active steps and canalise it through the ARC.

The hon, member from Tamil Nadu expressed a slight fear of discrimination. I would make it clear there is no question of discrimination or politics arising here at all. If he would kindly go through the report, he will find that as on 30 June, 1968 there were only 13 schemes in Tamil Nadu with an outlay of Rs. 1142.31 lakhs. This has been increased to 54 schemes and involving an outlay of Rs. 3,234.3 lakhs.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: I did not allege discrimination; I only said it should be generosly given.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: There is no question of generosity; it is a case of justice.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: It is not for the State alone; it is for the Corporation and the Centre also to join in this.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Yes. So far as the Corporation is concerned, it is taking active steps; its role is to assist the Governments in the States in this regard.

As for the reference to PL-480 funds, it is outside the scope of this Bills and falls within the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs in whose hands it must be receiving attention.

SHRI R. V. BADE: Amount from the PL funds were given for the rehabilation of agriculture and other industries. Why not it be given to the Agricultural Refinance Corporation?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Now that you have mentioned it, we shall certainly examine it and let you know in course of time how far it is possible to divert it there and utilies it from that point of view.

About loan utilisations certain Members have raised the point, that not only it is a question of giving the loan but to see how far it is utilised. For their information I am happy to quote from the report from which one of the members has also quoted. I would draw their attention to the report of the Board of Directors for 1969-70. On the first page it has been said:

"The growing phase of improvement in the corporation's business was maintained. An even more satisfactory feature of the year's operation was an improvement on the part of the financial institutions, the physical implementation of the schemes and utilisation of refinance sactioned by the Corporation,"

This is something which should receive universal applause and commendation. So, there is no fear as far as utilisation is concerned.

Some Members from this said had raised the question whether horticulture will be included in the definition of the word 'agriculture'. We find there is no legal

[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

difficulty. But there is no formal definition of 'agriculture' which specifically includes horticulture. But there is nothing to stop it. There is no legal difficulty standing in the way. As a matter of fact, horticulture has be n included for all purposes, whether financing, taxation, development, etc. in the word 'agriculture'. The ARC has been financing plantation and horticulture all along. So, I feel that fear may also be allayed so far as those Members are concerned.

One hon. Member had asked about Udaipur scheme. I am afraid we do not have the information with us at present. Off-hand, I am not in a position to say anything. If the scheme has been there and is three years old, certainly it will be expedited, I suppose; we shall find out and let the hon. Member know.

About West Bengal, I am sorry the Member from West Bengal...

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: I mentioned Orissa and Assam also not only West Bengal.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Then it must have been another Member who mentioned West Bengal also. He said that West Bengal has been discriminated against. I do not want to bring politics into this Bill which has received universal approval. I would only like to point out to the hon Member than probably the schemes have not received that much attention of the hon. Members as the other things are, Because we find on record that West Bengal, in spite of the writing from here, they have not taken initiative in West Bengal. There is considerable scope for minor orgation development. However, despite repeated efforts of the Agricultural Refinance Corporation, and the availability of reports from groundwater surveys on the basis of which schemes of irrigation development can be formulated, such schemes have not so far been sponsored from the State. Consequently, the Governor of the Reserve Bank drew the pointed attention of the Chief Adviser of West Bengal Government to this fact and

requested him to take steps to adequately strengthen the banking structure. I hope the Members who come from West Bengal so cloquently always condence the jotedars and speak for the cause of the common man, should also see that not only politics but also these matters should receive equal attention which are for the real benefit of the common man.

Then, our friend Shri Sarjoo Pandey mentioned certain important points and I think we agree that there is need for an overall improvement in the entire machinary, but so far as this particular matter is concerned, I would only like to say that these matters are receiving the active consideration of the Government.

Shri Deo has mentioned about the marine fishing where fish can take to sea as ducks to water. I think he is not there now. But I say that if he has written to the Government about the scheme— I do not know whether he has written before—and if there is any such scheme I suppose it will receive attention.

With these words, I would like to thank all the hon. Member. I do not think there is any need for the amendment which has been brought in by Shri S. N. Singh, that it should be circulated for eliciting opinion, because I think the opinion is unanimous and if it is to be sent for eliciting public opinion it might be delayed by three months and that would nullify the priority of this Bill.

SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH: May I withdraw it with the pleasure of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: You just say you withdraw. For pleasure I have to seek the leave of the House.

Has the hon Member leave of the Houes to withdraw his amendment.

Amendment No. 1 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is;

"That the Bill further to amend the Agricultural Refinance Corporation Act, 1963, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 4 and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bili".

The motion was adopted.

"Clauses 2 to 4 and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSIIILA ROHATGI : I move :

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. SPFAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.11 hrs.

CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES (VALIDATION OF PROCEEDINGS BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SIIRI K. R. GANESH): Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Bill to provide for validation of certain proceedings in relation to direct taxes and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

As the hon, Members are aware, the Central Board of Revenue was replaced by two separate boards of revenue called the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Excise and Customs, which were constituted under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963. The new Boards come into existence with effect from 1-1-1964. Section 4 of the Central Boards of Revenue

Act, 1963, empowers the Central Government to make rules for the purpose of regulating the transaction of business by each Board and further provides that 'every order made or act done in accordance with such rules shall be deemed to be an order or act, as the case may be, of the Board". In exercise of this power, the Central Government notified on 1-1-1964 the Central Board of Direct Taxes (Regulation of Transaction of Business) Rules, 1964 which superceded all previous rules on the subject, Under one of the provisions in these rules. the Chairman of the the Central Board of Direct Taxes is empowered to distribute the business of the board among himself and other members and specify the cases or class of cases to be considered jointly by the Board. Such an order can, however, be passed by the Chairman only after obtaining the prior approval of the Central Government.

In exercise of these powers the Chairman had, from time to time, distributed the business of the Board amongst himself and other members but some of these order were passed obtaining only a formal or informal approval of Sccretary, Ministry of Finance. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that the validity of such orders is open to challenge on the ground that the procedural requirement of obtaining the approval of the Government had not been fulfilled. If this view can be sustained, various actions taken by the Chairman and members of the Central board of direct taxes in the performance of their functions under the income tax Act and other direct taxes enactments may be regared as being invalid merely on the ground that the member of the Board who performed the relevant function had not been validly entrusted with the necessary powers in accordance with the rules. In fact, in a recent case before the Delhi High Court, the issue of notices by the Incometax officer under section 148 for re-opening of assessments with a view to bringing escaped income to tax was challenged on ground that the member of the Board who had granted approval to the re-opening of whese assessments had not validly been entrusted with these functions as the relevant order relating to allocation of this work had not been made with the previous approval of the Central Government. This